SULPHUR PASSAGE PROVINCIAL PARK

PURPOSE STATEMENT AND ZONING PLAN

March 2003

Approved by:

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Date: March 25/03

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Date: Mar 27/03

SULPHUR PASSAGE PROVINCIAL PARK
Purpose Statement and Zoning Plan

Primary Role
The **primary** role of Sulphur Passage Park is to protect an entire island of coastal temperate rainforest and the surrounding marine environment. The marine portion of the park contributes to the representation of the Vancouver Island Shelf *Marine* Ecosection, which is poorly represented in the protected areas system. The park protects coastal and marine ecosystems that offer habitat for marine mammals, resident and migrating birds, fish, and intertidal and subtidal marine organisms (including a biologically significant clam bed in Hayden Passage).

The park is part of an intact coastal ecosystem of old growth Sitka spruce forests, and it protects an unaltered island and undisturbed viewscapes, a narrow passage, a fjord, and part of watersheds and streams which are important spawning grounds for four species of salmon and possible nesting habitat for the nationally threatened marbled murrelet. The park complements Strathcona Park in the protection of natural values associated with the interface between land and water.

Secondary Role
The **secondary** role is to provide a high quality visual experience for visitors exploring Clayoquot Sound, which is a popular destination area for boaters who are seeking the remote natural setting of the wild west coast and undisturbed forests. The park includes Obstruction Island and the passages around it, where several coves and bays provide shelter for small boats. It protects high scenic values for boaters and kayakers exploring the Upper Shelter area of Clayoquot Sound and those headed to the all-weather anchorage in the Megin Talbot entrance to Strathcona Park.

Tertiary Role
The **tertiary** role is to protect cultural features. Clayoquot Sound has a vibrant First Nations heritage, both past and present. The park has First Nations and post-contact heritage sites that capture glimpses of the past.

Management Issues

Known Management Issue	Response
Lack of knowledge of ecological and cultural values	➢ Gather inventory data on park and park values. ➢ Undertake a cultural inventory and traditional use study in conjunction with First Nations.
Fish farms located, and permitted as a pre-existing use in the park	➢ Work with operators and Land and Water BC Inc. to move fish farms to a more appropriate location away from the park and its values.
Impact of adjacent industrial activity (forest harvesting, log storage, commercial clam harvesting) on park values	➢ Work with Ministry of Forests and companies to ensure protection of park values and visual resources. ➢ Work with DFO to ensure clam harvesting does not interfere with protection of marine values.
Participation in Biosphere Reserve	➢ Work with Biosphere Foundation and Central Region

	Board to ensure the Environmental Stewardship Division's perspective is taken into account in Biosphere activities and projects.

Zoning

Natural Environment Zone -- covers the entire park (2,298.6 ha). The objective of this zone is to protect scenic values and to provide recreation opportunities in a largely undisturbed natural environment.

Conservation

Representation - ecosection	☒	Minimal contribution of 0.59% to the representation of the Windward Island Mountains Ecosection (WIM), which is well represented in the protected areas system at 17.4%. As the park is adjacent to the Megin/Talbot addition to Strathcona Park, it is part of a larger protected area that contributes significantly to ecosystem representation. With about 1,943 hectares of foreshore, Sulphur Passage Park contributes 2.2% to the representation of the Vancouver Island Shelf *Marine* Ecosection (VIS), which is poorly protected at 5.4%.
- biogeoclimatic subzone/variant	☒	Minimal contribution of 0.35% to the representation of CWHvm1, which has only 7% protected provincially. Minimal contribution of 0.82% to the representation of CWHvh1, which is well represented in the protected areas system at 19.3%.
Special Features	☒	A scenic passage, old growth forests, salmon habitat, 8 bald eagle nests
Rare/Endangered Values	☒	Provincially *red-listed* and nationally *threatened* marbled murrelet. *Blue-listed* great blue heron. *Yellow-listed species of conservation concern (S4)* bald eagle. Potential habitat for Olympia oyster (listed as Special Concern by COSEWIC).
Scientific/Research Opportunities	☒	Marbled murrelets

Recreation

Representation		
backcountry	☐	Not applicable
destination	☐	Not applicable
travel corridor	☒	High scenic values for visitors exploring Clayoquot Sound, sea kayaking route
local recreation	☐	Not Applicable
Special Opportunities	☐	Not applicable
Education/Interpretation Opportunities	☐	Not applicable

Cultural Heritage

Representation	☒	Post contact use -- shore-based fish processing plants
Special Feature	☒	First Nations sites

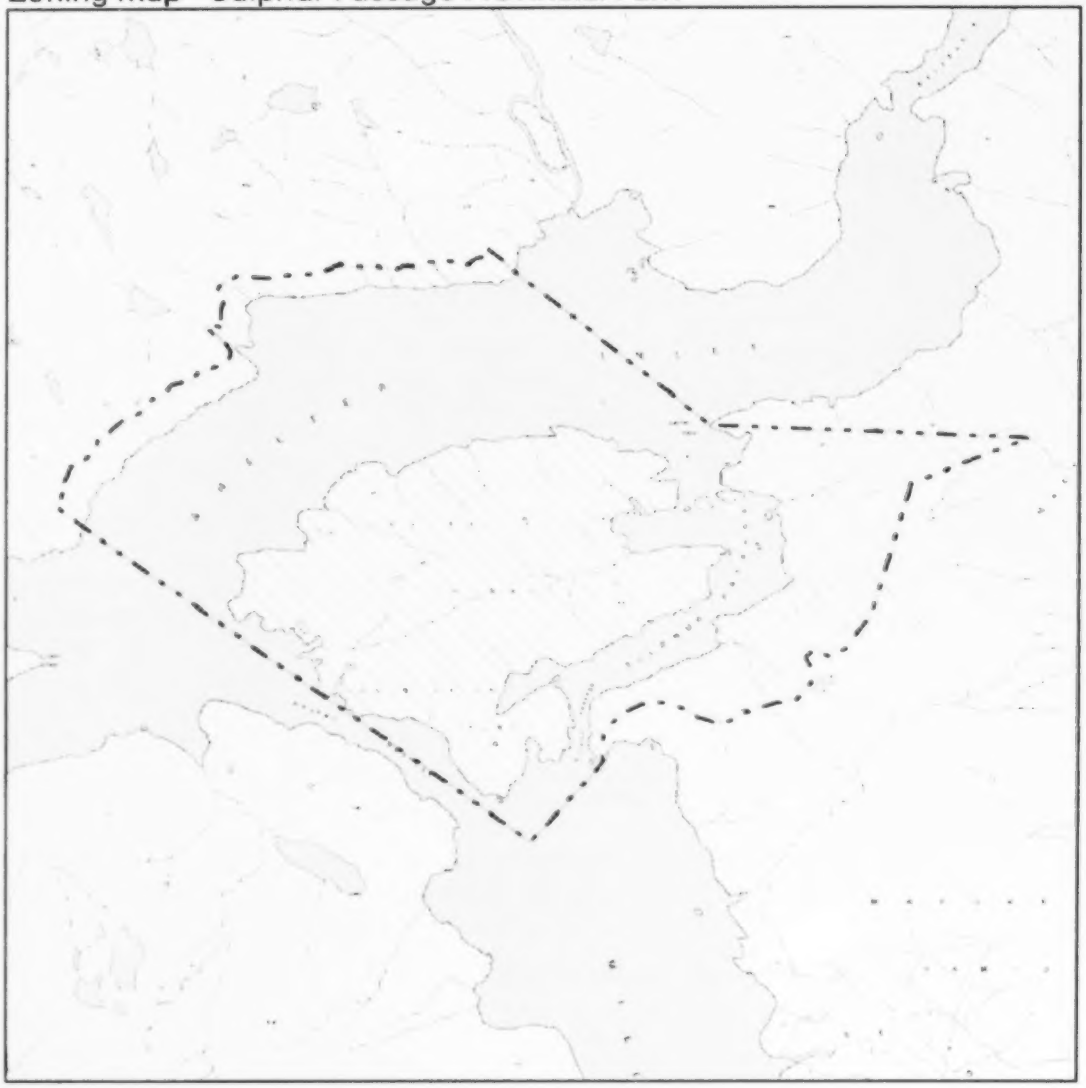
Other Management Considerations

Other Designations	☒	Part of Clayoquot Sound Biosphere Reserve
Relationship to other PAs	☒	Part of a system of protected areas in Clayoquot Sound. Adjacent to Strathcona Park and contributes to the conservation of marine values in Shelter Inlet provided by Strathcona Park.
Co-operative Management Arrangements	☒	Part of the Interim Management Agreement Extension with the Central Region Board
Partnerships	☐	Not Applicable
Vulnerability	☒	Park values are vulnerable to nearby forestry development, and aquaculture and commercial harvesting of clams that occurs inside the park
Relationship to other Strategies	☒	Interim Measures Extension Agreement. Identified for protection in the 1993 Clayoquot Sound Land Use Decision. Marine Protected Areas Strategy.

Area: 2,298.6 hectares (355.2 ha upland; 1,943.4 ha foreshore)

Date of establishment: July 12, 1995

Zoning Map - Sulphur Passage Provincial Park



Projection: Albers Equal Areas
Datum: NAD83

Natural Environment
Protected Area Boundary

0 2
km

Produced in Mar 2003 for Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection by MSRM, Decision Support Services

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